

R. K. CALL.

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MEMORIAL

OF

RICHARD K. CALL.

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MARCH 16, 1840.

Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

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*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of  
America in Congress assembled :*

The memorial of R. K. Call, late Governor of the Territory of Florida,

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS :

That your memorialist was, on the 16th day of March, 1836, without his knowledge, consent, or application, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appointed by the President of the United States Governor of the Territory of Florida for the period of three years ; that your memorialist did not accept the said office of Governor until he was induced to do so by the petition of a number of the most respectable citizens of this Territory ; that your memorialist afterward accepted and entered upon the duties of said office, and continued to perform them to the best of his abilities until the 25th day of February, 1839, when your memorialist was reappointed to said office, without solicitation or request on his part, for another term of three years ; that your memorialist continued zealously and with unremitting assiduity to perform the duties of Governor of Florida until the evening of the 24th of December last, when he learned, with some surprise, through the medium of the newspapers, that he had been superseded in the office of Governor aforesaid, and that the Hon. R. R. Reid, judge of the district of East Florida, had been appointed his successor. Although this event has been published and republished in the newspapers, from the date of the removal of your memorialist until this the 26th of February, and the successor of your memorialist has been long since installed in office, your memorialist has received no official information from the Government on the subject. He has not been notified of his removal. He has neither been advised, by the proper department, of the names of his accusers ; the offence with which he stands charged ; the names of the witnesses, or the nature of the evidence on which he has been condemned. After judgment and execution, it may have been deemed by the Department of State an idle ceremony to inform the accused of his arraignment, or it may have been considered an office too humiliating to

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correspond with one who had fallen under the displeasure of those in power. But your memorialist never having felt himself elevated by the commission of the President, does not, by its loss, feel himself depressed below the grade of respectability, which would entitle him to be informed of the cause of his removal from office.

A few days before your memorialist heard of his being superseded, he was informed by a friend that a petition praying for his removal had been secretly circulated among those who had conspired against him, and had been forwarded to Washington. The propriety of sending a counter petition, by the friends of your memorialist, was suggested; but he rejected the proposition, stating to the friend by whom it was made, that he relied on the propriety of his own conduct no less than on the justice of the President of the United States; that, if charges had been made against your memorialist, the high functionaries of the Government would not condemn him unheard, but that they would afford him a fair and impartial opportunity of vindicating his reputation. How far your memorialist was correct in the high estimate he had formed of the magnanimity and impartial justice of the Federal Executive, is shown by the result. Your memorialist was not only dismissed from office on the secret and insidious representations of his unknown accusers, but the injury has been augmented by withholding the causes of his removal. The dismissal of an officer from a place of high trust and responsibility, implies guilt of some misdemeanor demanding a measure of such harshness; and, until the true cause shall have been assigned by the proper and responsible department of the Government, the public mind is left to conjecture and speculate on the probable offence which has been committed. Your memorialist, feeling a just and conscious pride in the belief that he discharged with zeal and fidelity every duty imposed upon him by the high station which he lately held, is unwilling to leave his reputation in an attitude so equivocal. To relieve him from this embarrassment, and as an act of justice to himself, he is reluctantly compelled to invoke the power of Congress to pass a resolution calling on the President of the United States to disclose the real cause which produced the removal of your memorialist from office.

Your memorialist has been informed, by private letters which he has received from Washington, that he was removed from office on the application of the Hon. J. R. Poinsett, Secretary of War; and your memorialist has, through the kindness of a personal friend, been furnished with a copy of a letter from this public functionary to the President, making the request, for reasons therein assigned. Your memorialist deeply regrets to find this high officer of the Government—one representing the pride and chivalry of his country—assuming the unworthy garb of the secret accuser. The blow has already been given—the wound inflicted; but your memorialist is prepared, as he believes, to show that the reasons assigned for this extraordinary act, though plausible and imposing, are fictitious and unreal, and are intended to conceal the personal malice and political animosity long cherished by the honorable Secretary towards your memorialist, and by which he was actuated on this occasion. In aid of the investigation of these facts, your memorialist prays that a resolution may be passed, calling on the Hon. J. R. Poinsett to furnish a copy of his correspondence with your memorialist, and a copy of the correspondence of your memorialist with all the officers of the United States army who have served in Florida, so far as the same may be found in the archives of the War Department.

First, in the catalogue of charges presented against your memorialist by the honorable Secretary, is that of an unwillingness to co-operate with the commanding general in Florida. After speaking of its importance, in his letter to the President, he says, "such a result cannot be expected so long as the present Governor remains in power." This is a grave and serious charge; but its truth is put in issue, and is disproved by the whole tenor of the correspondence of your memorialist, not only with the commanding generals, but with the subordinate officers in Florida. The correspondence of your memorialist, to which he begs leave to refer your honorable body, will show, at all times and on all occasions, a disposition to co-operate faithfully and zealously with the officers of the United States army in all things, except the plan and policy which have been generally pursued, of abandoning active operations with the first appearance of spring, and remaining in *summer quarters* until the month of November or December. If a non-acquiescence in this policy be deemed a want of co-operation on the part of your memorialist, then is he guilty of the charge. He could not, in duty to God and his country, remain an inactive spectator of the horrid scenes of butchery which have been so often exhibited, almost within the verge of the capitol; he could not turn a deaf ear to the invocations of his fellow-citizens who called on him for protection; he could not give his sanction to a policy which has protracted the war to its present length, exhausted the national Treasury, and covered a large portion of the Territory he was appointed to govern with ruin and desolation. But in no instance can it be shown that your memorialist ever did refuse to co-operate with any officer of the army in Florida, no matter what may have been his rank, when the object proposed was intended to promote either the prosecution of the war or the protection of the country.

The next matter of reproach contained in the letter of the honorable Secretary of War is, that your memorialist "failed to acquire the respect of the army of the South while invested with the command of it; and ever since that time an unfriendly feeling has existed between the military and civil authorities, to the great inconvenience of the service."

In nothing could the personal feeling of his accuser have been more fully developed. That, the whole army of the United States, and every portion of it, no matter where stationed, was generally dissatisfied with the appointment of your memorialist to the command in Florida, as it had a right to be, and as it would have been with the appointment of any citizen to such a command, cannot be doubted. This feeling was fully manifested in the public prints of that day; and that many of the officers were unwilling to co-operate with, and were instrumental in having your memorialist superseded in command, he has as little doubt. Their professional pride was wounded by seeing a citizen clothed with power, which they believed could not rightfully be conferred on any other than an officer of the army.

However deficient Mr. Poinsett may be in military knowledge and capacity, he cannot be ignorant of the "*esprit du corps*" of the army, and of the unwillingness of the officers to see a military command conferred on a citizen: and yet he has endeavored to reproach your memorialist for their opposition to his command over them. Your memorialist feels confident that he did not "fail to acquire the respect of the army of the South," so far as it ever came under his command, by permitting it to slumber in summer quarters, while the enemy desolated the country around it; but that all was done which could have been accomplished by this inconsiderable

force, during the same time and under the same circumstances. If your memorialist could in any degree be censurable for the state of feeling mentioned by the Secretary of War, it would be for accepting the command when conferred on him. But the peculiar situation of the country, the danger and destruction to which it was exposed, and the obligation on his part to hazard all for its relief, he conceives will answer every objection on this subject.

At that period the army had retired to summer quarters, and most of the officers of high rank were absent from the Territory, either in conducting the war against the Creek Indians in Georgia and Alabama, or on furlough. Most of the military posts had been abandoned, and the Indians, almost without resistance, murdered the families, or plundered and burnt the deserted houses along the whole frontier, for the distance of more than 200 miles. Such was the condition of the settlements, exposed to the invasion of the Seminoles; while, on the other hand, the Creek Indians, who evaded the pursuit and vigilance of the army, were passing in large and small parties from Alabama to the peninsula of Florida, threatening desolation to the country in their march. For a more particular description of the danger and suffering to which this country was then exposed, and the trials and difficulties with which your memorialist had to contend, he respectfully refers to his correspondence with Governor Cass, the then Secretary of War, a part of which is herewith enclosed. This correspondence created the germe of offence to those in power. It never died, but descended to the succession, increased with time, and more recent correspondence, until it matured into confirmed dislike, and finally produced the removal of your memorialist from office. The whole energies and resources of the Government were at that time directed to the defence and relief of the powerful States of Georgia and Alabama; while Florida, with her sparse and unarmed population, was left to struggle for existence against the united forces of the Creeks and Seminoles. Your memorialist then urged the necessity of a summer campaign, as the only effectual measure for the protection of the country. At this fearful crisis, when every portion of the Territory was threatened with danger, and scarcely a man could be drawn from a settlement without exposing his family to butchery; when the whole disposable force of the United States, in Florida, would not have formed an effective regiment; in midsummer, when no general officer of the Government desired it, the command in Florida was *graciously* conferred on your memorialist, with authority to make a summer campaign. But he was specially informed that his authority would be temporary, and that his command would cease on the arrival of Major General Jesup, who was ordered to Florida. The regular troops were stationed in the different military posts, from Tampa Bay to St. Augustine, and from their numbers and ill health, were scarcely sufficient to defend their own positions, and furnish an escort for the supplies transported from the depots to the posts of the interior.

Until the arrival of the Tennessee brigade of volunteers on the 15th of September, your memorialist could not, with all his efforts, scarcely assemble a sufficient force at any one of the numerous assailed and assailable points to hold the enemy in check. On the arrival of Major General Jesup in Florida on the 10th of September, for the purpose of consulting and advising on the best mode of aiding me with means from his Alabama command, your memorialist, in a personal interview, tendered to him the command of all the forces in Florida, which he generously declined. It was,

however, verbally understood, and mutually agreed on between him and your memorialist, that he should retain the immediate command of all the forces he brought with, and expected to follow him from Alabama; and that he would sail from Appalachicola bay to the mouth of the Withlacoochee, or Tampa Bay, from whence he would enter the enemies' country, while your memorialist, with the Tennessee brigade (then about 1,200 strong), a small battalion of Florida volunteers, and such of the regular troops as might arrive, or be drawn from the military posts in East Florida, would pursue the Indians on the northern part of their country. Although a friendly correspondence was maintained, no orders were given by your memorialist to General Jesup, who pursued his own plans, and acted on his own discretion.

Your memorialist, then just risen from a bed of illness, and scarcely able to mount his horse without assistance, lost not a moment in marching against the enemy, who, after the shameful abandonment of Fort Micanopy, advanced upon the settlements, and covered the frontier with havoc and dismay.

He had relied on this post as a depot for his army (see his letter to Secretary Cass, of the 7th of September, 1836), the situation of the country would not permit him to halt, and the unexpected and precipitate abandonment of Micanopy, embarrassed every step of his operations. Other depots were to be established, other posts to be erected, and other resources created, while hurrying to the relief of the exposed settlements. Your memorialist marched from Tallahassee on the 19th of September, the most unhealthy season of the year, and on the 4th day of November an order was issued, by the direction of the President of the United States, superseding him in command. The operations of your memorialist during that brief period, with his feeble forces, limited resources, and surrounded with embarrassments, will be seen in his official reports to the War Department, and he does not shrink from a comparison of them with what had before, or has since been done, within the same time, by more numerous and better appointed armies.

"The army of the south," as it is pompously termed, so far as it ever came under the command of your memorialist in the field, consisted only of one small battalion, less than three hundred strong. With most of the officers of this battalion, though feeling the prejudice common to the regular army, against serving under the command of a militia general, and strongly averse to a summer campaign, your memorialist maintained the most harmonious intercourse, and he remembers with pride and admiration the zeal, alacrity, and intrepidity, with which they generally co-operated with the volunteers of his command. Even when placed upon half rations, with the common soldier, in order to continue the pursuit of the enemy, and give battle, not a complaint, not a murmur was heard.

The allegation of the honorable Secretary, that "ever since that period, (the command of your memorialist of the army of the South), an unfriendly feeling has existed between the military and civil authorities, to the great inconvenience of the service," is too equivocal and uncertain to be either admitted or denied. But if it is intended to include your memorialist in the term "civil authorities," and to represent that unfriendly feelings "have ever since existed" between him and the military, your memorialist denies the truth of the assertion, and as a proof of the propriety of such denial, he refers to his correspondence with Major General Jesup, by

whom your memorialist was superseded in command of the army. From that correspondence it will appear that the best feelings and the most harmonious relations, both personal and official, existed between your memorialist and this distinguished officer, during the whole period of his command in Florida.

The correspondence between General Taylor and your memorialist, will disclose feelings but little less cordial. It is true that your memorialist has differed with him, essentially, in his views of the measures necessary to defend the frontier, as well as for the successful prosecution of the war. But your memorialist has ever attributed to this general the possession, not only of high personal worth, but great zeal and energy in the performance of his duty. That your memorialist has earnestly remonstrated with the Secretary of War against the conduct of certain officers serving in Florida, in withholding supplies from the Florida troops, called into service by your memorialist, under the authority of the War Department, at a time when the frontier was exposed to the utmost peril, he readily admits. Your memorialist begs leave respectfully to refer your honorable body to the correspondence on this subject, both with the Secretary of War and his subordinate officers, and he appeals with confidence to your judgment and your impartial justice to decide, whether it would not have been more compatible with the high character of the Minister of War to have enforced obedience to his own orders, and to have given that protection to the bleeding frontier of Florida, which your memorialist sought to obtain, than to make his respectful application to him for that purpose the foundation of an insidious and unjust accusation against him.

Your memorialist again repeats his earnest request that your honorable body will carefully examine this correspondence, and decide whether the honorable Secretary of War should not be held responsible to his country for the blood which has been shed through the weakness and imbecility of his administration of the War Department.

After speaking of the unfriendly feeling which he alleges to have existed between the military and civil authorities, the Secretary of War adds: "This feeling, constantly manifested by the Governor, has lately been so openly avowed, as to produce an effect on all connected with the regular army, which, if not counteracted, may be attended with unpleasant and disastrous consequences." Your memorialist has been greatly at a loss to conjecture what it is to which the honorable Secretary alludes, and believes that he has chosen to be mysterious, in order to give to his accusations the more imposing effect, as your memorialist is not conscious of having openly, or otherwise, avowed a "feeling" calculated to produce the fearful results anticipated by his accuser. The allusion may be to a "feeling" sometimes expressed by your memorialist towards the present incumbent of the War Department, and to which he will have occasion hereafter to advert. A *shrug* or a *grimace* often intimates more than the courtier would hazard his reputation to express, and like the fabled mountain, when the honorable Secretary shall have been delivered of his mysterious conception, sympathy for his sufferings will be forgotten in astonishment at his wonderful progeny.

The accuser of your memorialist, in his letter to the President, speaks of the unfriendly feeling existing between the regular troops and the militia; and, although the charge is not directly made, it may be inferred that this forms a part of the grounds of complaint against your memorialist. This,

if intended, is not less fair and equitable than all the rest of the positions taken by the Secretary of War. The only difficulty which has taken place in Florida between the regular troops and the militia, so far as your memorialist is advised, occurred at Tampa Bay, with the troops of Missouri and Alabama—troops which your memorialist never saw, or had the least intercourse with or control over. That your memorialist has endeavored to discourage those feelings among the Florida militia and volunteers, is fully shown by his correspondence with Colonel Robert Brown, published in the pamphlet herewith enclosed, and to which your memorialist begs leave to refer.

The honorable Secretary of War, proceeding with his accusations against your memorialist, says: "Besides, Governor Call, dissatisfied with the rejection of his offer to enlist a large body of militia for the service in Florida, and of the urgent recommendations of his friends to have the whole command and conduct of the war intrusted to him, has publicly declared his intention to propose to the Legislature of Florida to furnish the necessary funds to provide for an army, to act under the authority of the Territory." Your memorialist denies that his friends ever did, with his knowledge or consent, recommend that he should have the whole command and conduct of the war intrusted to him. And if such a recommendation was ever given and rejected without his knowledge, he being ignorant of the fact, it could have given him no dissatisfaction.

Your memorialist denies that he ever desired the command of any portion of the United States troops stationed in Florida. He sought to obtain a separate district of the enemy's country, including that which had been conquered by the enemy, where, with the patriotic volunteers of Georgia, Alabama, and Florida, who tendered their services, he might operate without commanding, or being commanded by the regular officers. After the late truce had been repeatedly violated by the Seminoles, and when the treachery of this perfidious ruse had been fully developed by the most shocking acts of barbarity, in the destruction of whole families, without discrimination of age or sex, and while the army appeared still to confide in the good faith, and hold amicable relations with the enemy, your memorialist, believing that the President of the United States was unacquainted with the true condition of this hapless Territory, with the hope of awakening to action the dormant energies of the War Department, and of procuring for the people of Florida the protection they have a right to claim, on the 23th day of July, addressed a letter to the President of the United States, urging, in strong and energetic terms, the necessity of prosecuting the war with vigor, "through every change and vicissitude of season, without halt, truce, or parley, until the war should be brought to a successful termination." Your memorialist believed the adoption of this course was required, no less for the safety of the people of Florida, than for the preservation of the national honor.

A truce had been made, and violated under the most aggravating circumstances. The national dignity had been insulted; our arms had been put at defiance; our citizens murdered; our soldiers surprised and massacred. Your memorialist could not believe that the head of this powerful nation, the successor, the immediate successor, of General Jackson, could have hesitated in adopting the most prompt measures to visit with signal punishment this savage and perfidious people; and, with a part of the force to be employed, your memorialist offered, at midsummer, to take the field; and had he been permitted, or could have procured supplies, he would have marched at the

head of five thousand of the best troops of the adjoining States and of this Territory. With a hope of procuring a more immediate attention to his suggestion, your memorialist sent a deputation, from among the most intelligent and respectable gentlemen of Florida, to wait on the President, to deliver the letter abovementioned; to explain to him the condition of the country, and urge him to action. A copy of that letter, with a copy of the report of this deputation, communicating the result of the mission, is herewith enclosed, and to which your memorialist begs leave to refer your honorable body.

But your memorialist was no less disappointed in the result of the mission, than he was in the effect which the disastrous intelligence from Florida produced on the President and Secretary of War. Instead of finding them at the Capital, planning a campaign, and providing prompt and energetic measures to punish the treachery and cruelty of the savages, the deputation was compelled to pursue them through the State of New York, catching a hasty interview at Whitehall and in Plattsburg; and finding them much more disposed to listen to the grateful sound of popular applause than to the sufferings and distress of the unhappy Territory. A campaign against political opponents in New York, was deemed a matter of far greater moment than one against the treacherous Seminoles in Florida.

With regard to the avowal of the intention of your memorialist to apply to the Legislature of Florida to furnish the necessary funds to provide for an army, to act under the authority of the Territory, this is true. It was the intention of your memorialist to have made such an application. But was it for this your memorialist was superseded as the Governor of this Territory? Your memorialist believes he may venture to say it was not. The honorable Secretary had himself given sanction to the raising of a force to act under the authority of the Territory; he had ordered General Taylor to cause to be supplied a military force, not to exceed three hundred men, to be subject alone to the orders of your memorialist; and owing to the failure of one of his subordinate officers to furnish the supplies, though repeatedly ordered to do so by the General (as your memorialist has been informed) your memorialist was compelled to borrow near fifty thousand dollars, to sustain his troops; which sum has never yet been refunded by the Government. The troops which your memorialist proposed to raise, under the power of the Territory, would have acted under the same authority as those raised by the sanction of the Secretary of War. But when did the honorable Secretary first learn the intention of your memorialist to raise a force to act under the authority of the Territory? In a special message to the Legislative Council, dated on the 7th of February, 1839, a copy of which is herewith enclosed, your memorialist recommended this measure; and two different acts were passed, during that session, conferring on the Governor of Florida the power of raising men to "act under the authority of the Territory," with the further power of issuing the bonds of the Territory to raise money to the amount of \$600,000, for the support of these troops; and nothing but the inability of your memorialist to negotiate the bonds for a sufficient amount (the contingency not arising which, by the law would have authorized their issue), prevented him from raising a large force, to operate against the enemy during the summer months, while the "army of the South," as it is called, reposed in summer quarters. A copy of the special message referred to, was sent both to the President of the United States and to the Secretary of War. Neither could have been ignorant of

the intention of your memorialist to raise money and support troops to "serve under the authority of the Territory;" and yet your memorialist was, without the least solicitation on his part, after this, appointed Governor of Florida.

With what propriety, then, could the honorable Secretary of War demand the removal of your memorialist from office for the avowal of his intention to do that which he had done near one year before without censure or reproof from the Government? But if it were possible that the facts and circumstances mentioned by your memorialist could have escaped the notice and attention of the President and Secretary of War, they were both by his letter to the President, dated 28th of July, 1839, informed that your memorialist had raised men, and of his intention to raise a still larger force. In that letter, your memorialist observed, "I have two companies in the pay of, and subsisted by, the Territory, and I shall employ as many more as the limited resources of Florida can support, until the enemy shall have been driven beyond the reach of annoyance to the settlements." This letter was delivered in the month of August, and referred to the honorable Secretary of War. He was then fully apprized of the intention of your memorialist to raise as many troops to serve under the authority of the Territory as the limited resources of Florida could support." If this was cause of complaint, if it constituted an offence for which your memorialist should have been removed, if it threatened the fearful consequences anticipated by the honorable Secretary, why did he not immediately apply for the removal of your memorialist? Why was this necessary measure delayed till the middle of December? The case is plain. This is but the plausible pretext, the fictitious reason given to hide one far less justifiable, as your memorialist will hereafter show.

The troops mentioned in the letter of your memorialist to the President of the United States were actively employed in defence of the frontier. Their number was increased to two hundred and fifty, and with this force your memorialist marched, in the middle of September, and, during a continued and persevering scout of thirty days, dislodged the enemy wherever found, in middle Florida. Two large settlements were broken up, each within ten or fifteen miles of a military post of the United States, where the Indians, in considerable numbers with their wives and children, had been permitted to build houses and cultivate crops without interruption, and from whence they had annoyed the settlements and destroyed the frontier inhabitants, as well as the expressmen and military escorts of the Government. On this expedition your memorialist subsisted his troops at the charge of the Territory; but, on one excursion, being unable to reach his supplies, he arrived with his battalion after night at one of the military posts of the Government, his horses and men greatly fatigued with the march and destitute of forage. As a temporary relief, your memorialist sought to borrow a small supply from the abundant stores of the Government, on a pledge to return the same quantity on the following day at noon; but even this trifling accommodation was denied.

Your memorialist would do injustice to many esteemed friends and meritorious officers of the army if he were to omit a statement of the fact that he believes the inhospitality which he experienced at the post abovementioned was owing entirely to the orders of the commanding officer of the district, whose conduct on a former occasion in withholding supplies from the Florida troops, had been reported to the Secretary of War without pro-

ducing the desired effect, thus increasing the bad feelings of which he complains in his letter to the President.

Your memorialist has other convincing proofs that his removal from office was not occasioned by the avowal of his intention to endeavor to raise troops to act under the authority of the Territory. Had it have been so, his successor must have come into office under an implied pledge to adopt a different course of policy. So far from this, he has not only retained the troops of the Territory which he found in service, but he has employed others, signed and negotiated the bonds of the Territory to a large amount, to raise money for their support. These troops are now acting under the orders of the present Executive, and entirely independent of the authority of the United States officers. If it were culpable in your memorialist to maintain a military force at the charge of the Territory and independent of the authority of the commanding general, the same act and the same policy cannot be more justifiable in his successor. If such a measure, under the administration of your memorialist, would have brought the War Department "into direct collision with the civil authorities of the Territory and involve the Government in great immediate expense as well as lay the foundation of interminable claims against the Treasury," it must produce the same result under the administration of his successor.

Your memorialist, believing that he has sufficiently exposed the weakness, the fallacy, and fiction, of the reasons assigned by the honorable Secretary of War for the removal of your memorialist from office, will now proceed to show what he verily believes were the true motives by which this functionary of the Government was actuated. Your memorialist has been informed, and believes, that, on the 16th day of November last, John P. Duval, late Secretary of this Territory, who was, at length, dismissed from office for a neglect of duty and disobedience of the repeated and positive orders of the Government, preferred charges against your memorialist in a letter addressed to the Honorable J. R. Poinsett. The only charge of which your memorialist has heard, was that of holding the Honorable J. R. Poinsett in great contempt, arising from the weakness and imbecility of this officer in the prosecution of the Florida war. Your memorialist prays that a resolution may be passed calling on the Honorable J. R. Poinsett to furnish a copy of that letter, and such others as he may have received from the said J. P. Duval, making charges against him (your memorialist), and when produced, that your honorable body will compare the date of the charges preferred against your memorialist with the date of the letter of the honorable Secretary to the President of the United States, applying for the removal of your memorialist from office. Your memorialist has recently heard, and believes, that there was a secret conspiracy formed against him by a faction in this Territory, who professed to be the exclusive friends of the President of the United States, and that a petition was secretly circulated and signed, appealing to the President to sustain his party in Florida; telling him that they, "the petitioners, despaired" of what they were pleased to denominate the democracy of the Territory without a change of administration, and praying for the removal of your memorialist from office, and the appointment of the Honorable R. R. Reid as his successor.

Your memorialist prays that a resolution may be passed, calling on the honorable Secretary of State to produce a copy of that, and all other memorials on the subject, with the names of each subscriber. Your memorialist believes that the production of the documents mentioned in the last

two resolutions will fully establish a concert of action between the Departments of War and State, and a secret combination between them and a faction in this Territory, composed of all political parties, federal and territorial, for the removal of your memorialist from office.

If it be an offence requiring such a penalty to hold the plans and policy, pursued by Mr. Poinsett in prosecuting the Florida war, in contempt—a policy which has desolated the finest portions of this Territory, bankrupted the national Treasury, and covered our people with mourning and sorrow,—your memorialist pleads guilty of the charge, and prays that his dismissal may be placed on that footing. If the removal from office of your memorialist was necessary to sustain the political party of the President in this Territory, let this, also, be assigned as a reason. But truth, justice, and every principle of honorable action, revolt at the attempt to fabricate fictitious and unfounded reasons for this harsh and extraordinary measure. Your memorialist complains not of his removal from office, but of the manner in which it was done: he complains, and justly complains, of the dishonorable attempt to assign unreal and fictitious reasons for the act.

Your memorialist feels a just pride in the reflection that, while in office, his whole faculties and best energies were employed to promote the happiness, the safety, and prosperity of the people of Florida: for them he often periled life and fortune, and that he considered the office of Governor of this Territory as valueless, when weighed in the scale with the safety and protection of those who looked to him for defence against the savage enemy. He begs leave to refer your honorable body to the following extract from his instructions to the deputation sent by him to wait on the President of the United States and urge a more prompt and vigorous prosecution of the war:

“I regret to say, gentlemen, that I have not been sustained, either by the officers of the army or of the Government, in the measures I have deemed necessary for the defence of the country, and our local militia have been rendered useless by withholding from them, on my requisition, the necessary supply of arms, ammunition, and subsistence. On this subject, I beg leave to refer you to my correspondence with Colonel Davenport, a copy of which, in manuscript, is herewith enclosed. I deem it indispensably necessary to the security of the frontier that the Governor of this Territory should not only have the power of ordering out the militia, in cases of emergency, but that he should have the means of furnishing them with supplies. It is not necessary that I should be the Governor, but it is necessary that the Governor, be he whom he may, should have that power; and I have to request, gentlemen, that you will urge this upon the President of the United States, and, as citizens of this Territory, deeply interested in its safety and prosperity, insist that this power shall be conferred. If the President should be unwilling to intrust me with the exercise of this power, he owes it to himself and to the people of Florida to dismiss me from office, and appoint one in whom he has more confidence. I hope, gentlemen, you will urge this upon him with all your zeal and energy. That which may be found most conducive to the safety and prosperity of the people of this Territory, will be most acceptable to me.”

The propriety of the opinion above expressed cannot be doubted by any rational mind. The absurdity of waiting to consult the commanding general, at the distance of two or three hundred miles, and of obtaining his permission to raise and support troops to drive back the marauding bands of

Indians, while burning and plundering almost within sight of the capitol, is too glaring even for comment; and yet this is the system which the honorable Secretary has endeavored to enforce during his whole administration. That he is justly accountable for all the blood which has been shed, and the lives which have been lost under this miserable policy, no one can doubt.

Such were the views and "feelings" of your memorialist, and he rejoices that the last moment of his official existence was devoted to the defence of his country.

The deputation, sent by your memorialist to wait on the President, acted in accordance with the above instructions; and what was the reply of this high functionary is shown by the following extract of a letter received from three of the members of that deputation:

"The committee represented to the President the necessity of clothing the executive of the Territory with the necessary power for defending the frontier, and they stated emphatically, as instructed, that if the President had not entire confidence in you to dismiss you, and appoint some one in whom he could confide. To which the President replied, that Governor Call was a highminded, honorable, and talented gentleman, in whom he had entire confidence."

But these considerations were forgotten when the removal of your memorialist was demanded by a member of the cabinet.

That your memorialist has evinced strong feelings in his correspondence with the Secretary of War, he does not deny; but those feelings were produced by a knowledge of the danger and suffering to which the people of Florida were exposed, and the indifference and neglect with which those sufferings have been regarded by the head of the War Department. Under his administration, hundreds of square miles, which were once inhabited by a happy and prosperous people, are now restored to their original wildness and solitude, and the whole frontier presents one wide-spread scene of desolation and ruin. Millions of public treasure have been expended, and hundreds and thousands of human lives have been sacrificed, and, after a conflict of more than four years' continuance, the arms of this powerful nation are now employed in defensive warfare against the victorious Seminoles! The army has retired from the enemy's country, leaving him in undisturbed possession of all the Territory he possessed at the commencement of hostilities, and is now engaged in the attempt to drive him from that which he has conquered. Under this system, what reasonable hope can be entertained that any one now living will see the close of this unhappy conflict? So long as the present policy is pursued, so long will the war continue, until the last house and the last inhabitant of Florida shall have fallen by the hands of the savages. For more than three years has your memorialist argued, remonstrated, and entreated, against this policy, but all his anxious efforts have had a tendency only to excite the displeasure and disapprobation of the Government. It is always a thankless, and sometimes a perilous responsibility to remind men in power of the weakness and inefficiency of their measures, but your memorialist could not regard those considerations when his duty required him to speak in plain and comprehensive language. He could not flatter and applaud the man under whose administration of the War Department he had seen the brightest hopes of this Territory blighted, and hundreds of its people reduced from abundance to want, and almost to famine.

Your memorialist cannot forbear a comparison of the condition of this Territory at the commencement of hostilities, with its situation at the present moment. The war found the Seminoles located within their boundary, on the peninsula; the public lands had become a source of revenue to the Government; the tide of emigration was fast flowing in; the settlements of the white man were advancing in close proximity to the Indian boundary; and the dawn of prosperity, which promised a bright day of success to the emigrant, every where appeared. This state of peace and happiness was disturbed by the fixed policy of the Government to remove the Indians from the land of their nativity, under the provisions of a treaty previously made. The people of this Territory were no party to this compact. They were not consulted on the occasion; they had no agency in the negotiation or the execution of the treaty. Their situation was peculiar. They were the dependants of the National Government without political influence or a voice in the national councils? The Seminoles resisted the power of the Government, and our once happy and prosperous country became the theatre of a bloody and long-protracted struggle. The tide of war rolled back upon us. House after house has fallen; family after family has been murdered. The frontier has receded near one hundred miles, and the unconquered savages pass in triumph over the deserted fields and dreary ruins of the Christian settlements. We owe to the Government of the United States allegiance, and, in return, she owes us protection: protection of our lives; protection in the enjoyment of our property; but, above all, in the undisturbed possession and enjoyment of the lands we have purchased from and paid her for. How far this reciprocal obligation has been performed, on her part, has been proclaimed in the dying groans, and written in the blood of hundreds of helpless women and lisping babes, who have perished by the knife of the savage, or been consumed in the flames of their own dwellings. The national treasure has, indeed, been most liberally appropriated by Congress, but if we may judge of the future from the past and the present, it has been expended under a system which can never be successful; and, if continued, will ultimately deliver this Territory to the undisturbed possession of the savages and wild beasts of the forest. That the vast resources and power of the United States are competent to the conquest of this band of savages, no one can doubt; nor is her political and moral obligation to do so less certain. The least hope of subduing the Indians by kindness, and closing the war by conciliatory measures, must have expired even in the minds of those who have been so often duped by their treachery and cunning. The repeated violations of the late truce, both in the murder of our citizens, and the surprise and massacre of the soldiers, must have convinced the most credulous that no reliance whatever can be placed in their plighted faith, and that there is no other alternative than that of subduing the Indians, or of leaving the inhabitants of Florida to be exterminated by them. Your memorialist cannot believe that the National Legislature will hesitate in the choice of the position to be taken; and that when it shall understand the true situation of this Territory, it will adopt the necessary measures for its relief.

But your memorialist most earnestly believes that something more is necessary to be done by Congress than the mere appropriation of money to conduct the war. He is forcibly impressed with this belief, not only from his knowledge and observation of the manner in which the war has been conducted; and the results with which it has been attended, but from the

notice taken of the subject by the President in his last annual message. The petty corporations of this Territory have claimed more paternal concern from the Federal Executive than the Seminole war, which is depopulating the country, consuming the substance of our people, and draining the last artery of the national Treasury. Your honorable body may rest assured that, if this fatal and destructive war is not arrested in its progress, no concern need be felt for our corporations, for they will most assuredly be involved in the general ruin, and must fall with those by whom they have been created and sustained. The President dismisses the subject of the war in a short paragraph, by recommending the report of the honorable Secretary. And what is that report? What is the plan proposed to end this harassing conflict, and restore this Territory to peace and tranquillity? He says that "orders have been given to change, for the present, the theatre of operations. The frequent murders in Middle and West Florida show that there are still small bands of Indians lurking there; and it is the determination of the department, in the first place, to draw them from that part of the Territory, and free the settlements from further molestation." Thus proving, what your memorialist has before stated, that the army has retired from the enemy's country, and is engaged in defensive measures, after a war of four years' continuance. And why has it become necessary to abandon offensive for defensive war? Why has it become necessary to send the army to operate in Middle and West Florida? From the commencement of hostilities until a short time before Major General Jesup retired from command, your memorialist defended Middle and West Florida with the territorial militia and volunteers. Not one regular soldier was employed in this service until May, 1838, except for a few weeks in 1836; and although great embarrassment was sometimes experienced from the want of subsistence, forage, and pay (and your memorialist was, on more than one occasion, compelled to pledge his private fortune and borrow money to pay the troops), this frontier was not only defended, but was comparatively safe. It is a fact which cannot be denied, that more blood has been shed in Middle Florida, and more property has been destroyed in the last thirteen months, while it has been defended by a large regular force, than there had been previously during the whole course of the war.

Had the honorable Secretary adopted the plan recommended by your memorialist in his letter to that functionary, dated the 4th October, 1838, Middle and West Florida would have been saved from the danger and suffering to which it has since been exposed, and the national army might have continued its offensive operations against the enemy.

Your memorialist asked to be permitted to raise only 400 mounted men, to perform this important service; the expense of which would have scarcely amounted to one tithe of what has been expended. It is a principle of warfare known to the whole civilized world, and well established since the days of Hannibal, that the most certain and efficient mode of defence against an invading enemy, is to carry the war into his own country, and throw him on the defensive. This universal principle is as applicable to savage, as it is to civilized warfare; for, though the Seminoles have no treasures to lose, no temples to defend, their household gods are their wives and children; and their fierce warriors will not leave these exposed to an invading army, to strike at the distant frontier settlements. Your memorialist is well convinced, from four years' observation and experience, that no system of defensive warfare can give successful protection to our settlements against

the inroads of the enemy; and that, if the whole army of the United States, with all its gallantry, formed one entire cordon of posts on our borders, the skulking savage would still pass the chain of defence at night, and break upon the slumber of the settler. This opinion is based on the well known and undeniable fact, that, during the last summer, the trails of the enemy, often in considerable numbers, were found within less than one mile of military posts garrisoned by a company of regular soldiers. The frontier should, indeed, be protected, but the only certain and permanent defence is to be found in an energetic and continuous prosecution of the war in the enemy's own country. Keep him employed at home, and he will find but little time to annoy the settlements; and if such annoyance should be offered, instead of withdrawing the army, and placing it as a guard for the frontier, let the settlements be defended as they were by the volunteers and militia during the first two years of the war, and let the army continue to hunt the enemy in the peninsula. No one will pretend that the principal force of the enemy is to be sought in Middle and West Florida, or that he could not be driven out by the volunteers and militia.

The Secretary of War describes them as "small bands of Indians still lurking there." Why did he not permit a volunteer or militia force to be employed to drive them out? On the night of the 13th of May last, three families were attacked on the Appalachicola river, and 13 persons destroyed; since that time, numerous attacks have been made and murders committed, and not one moment of safety and tranquillity has been experienced in the sparse settlements in that quarter. Your memorialist then offered to expel the enemy with the local troops, and asked for supplies for that purpose, which were refused (see his correspondence with Colonel Davenport, enclosed to the President and Secretary of War). What apology, then, can be offered for the Secretary of War, in withdrawing the army from the enemy's country, and suspending offensive operations, to hunt for the "small bands of Indians lurking in West and Middle Florida?" Are not the resources of this nation sufficient to afford a guard for the frontier, while the army prosecutes the war against the enemy to a final termination? And if the army, as it is now employed, should succeed (of which there is but little hope) in driving out those "small bands of the Indians," when it advances again to seek the enemy in his strong-hold on the peninsula, what is to prevent those "small bands," and others, from returning to riot in the blood and spoil of the frontier settlers?

For four years has this struggle continued with unremitted horror; for four years has the frontier been gradually receding before the advance of the enemy. It still continues to recede, and the fall of every house, and the destruction of every family, add new territory to the dominion of the savages. If the people of this ill-fated Territory are to be saved from impending danger and ruin; if this disastrous and harassing conflict is ever to be closed, except by the expulsion of the white man from Florida, the war must be conducted on a different plan, and with increased energy. For the views long entertained by your memorialist on this subject, he again respectfully invites the attention of your honorable body to his letter addressed to the President of the United States on the 28th of July last. If your memorialist, in his attempt to seek redress for an injury personal to himself, should succeed in drawing the attention of Congress to the abuses of power, the mal administration of the War Department, and the suffering and relief of Florida, he will regard his removal from office as one of the

happiest events of his life. With the hope of producing that desirable result, your memorialist, as an humble citizen of this Territory, prays that a special committee be appointed to inquire into the manner in which the war has been conducted by the present incumbent of the War Department. What time the campaign has commenced, and what time it has closed, in each and every year. What proportion of the time has been spent in negotiations with the enemy, and what are the plans of the Secretary for closing the war.

Your memorialist further prays, that Congress will adopt the necessary measures to enforce a vigorous and energetic prosecution of the war with the Seminoles, until it shall have been brought to a successful termination.

And your memorialist will ever pray.

R. K. CALL.